

most extraordinary and accomplished individuals—those who are so unique that they could not be replaced by an American worker—are granted an O visa.

Unfortunately, in recent years, several unions have expressed deep concerns that a significant number of applicants for whom they have recommended denial have been admitted into the United States nonetheless. In some instances, the unions have documented fraud on the part of the applicant, while in some cases, the government simply reached a different conclusion. But, because the consulting union is never informed by the government whether a particular application was approved or denied, it is impossible to know the full extent of this problem. The O-VISA Act would bring needed transparency to this process by requiring USCIS to provide a copy of any final determination to the consulting union.

This is a narrow, but critically important provision. Although the unions have expended a great deal of resources to discover the outcome of their advisory opinions, they are in the dark about the vast majority of cases. Although they could serve as a partner to USCIS in rooting out fraud and abuse, they lack the information they need to follow up on suspicious cases. I should point out that the unions have assured me that their concerns about fraud do not stem from any applications by the major studios. The problems occur with certain unscrupulous independent companies that abuse the process in a variety of ways.

Of course, there need not be any fraud for USCIS to reach a different conclusion about the merits of a particular applicant. But, if this is occurring in a significant number of cases, it may signify a systemic problem in how the agency is considering applications, or a lack of understanding by the union of how cases should be evaluated. In either case, it is only fair that the unions have sufficient knowledge of how petitions are decided so that they can have a meaningful discussion with USCIS about any concerns they may have.

The O-VISA Act would provide the transparency necessary to undertake this process and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I want to note that since this bill simply requires that USCIS provide a copy of any final decision to the consulting organization, it should not burden the agency or add any delays in processing O visa applications. However, I recognize that many sponsoring employers have expressed concerns over the inefficiency of the current process, and that reforms are needed to streamline the application process.

The language contained in H.R. 3636 has historically been coupled with provisions that also make important changes to the O- and B-visa programs for those seeking entry for motion picture and television productions. These provisions were included in such bills as the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform legislation from last Congress. Specifically, these changes provided the same common-sense portability that exists in other visa categories, removed redundancies in the consultation process, and better aligned these entry programs with others that might involve an honorarium or appearance fee.

I appreciate Chairman GOODLATTE's assurances during the markup on the O-VISA Act that he intends to address these common-sense changes to the O- and B-programs that have historically accompanied the provisions

in this bill in the future. And I am pleased that we are advancing this bill today. The O-VISA Act will help ensure the integrity of the O visa program while protecting the jobs of American artists and craftsmen in the film and television industries. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 3636, the "Oversee Visa Integrity with Stakeholder Advisories Act", also known as the O-VISA Act.

H.R. 3636 is an important bill that supports the need and aim for comprehensive immigration reform and strengthens the role of the labor unions in the O-1B consultation process.

H.R. 3636 would strengthen the role of the labor unions in the O-1B consultation process by amending the "Immigration and Nationality Act" to require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to provide a copy of the O-1B petition decision to the labor union that was consulted as part of the petition process for a foreign artists and performers seeking to work in the United States.

This bill would also require an annual report to Congress from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) enumerating the adjudicative outcomes of O-1B petitions with a focus on the relationship between the USCIS decision and the recommendation provided in the labor union consultation.

Although H.R. 3636 deals specifically with the O-1B visa, the O nonimmigrant classification is commonly sub-classified in the following categories:

O-1A: individuals with an extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, business, or athletics not including the arts, motion pictures or television industry);

O-1B: individuals with an extraordinary ability in the arts or extraordinary achievement in motion picture or television industry; and

O-2: individuals who will accompany an O-1, artist or athlete, to asset in a specific event or performance.

For an O-1A, the O-2's assistance must be an "integral part" of the O-1A's activity.

For an O-1B, the O-2's assistance must be "essential" to the completion of the O-1B's production.

The O-2 worker has critical skills and experience with the O-1 that cannot be readily performed by a U.S. worker and which are essential to the successful performance of the O-1.

In creating the O-1B visa category, Congress sought a balance between the need for global interchange of creative professionals, and the need to prevent entertainment producers from abusing the immigration laws and the ability of individuals to obtain a visa for extraordinary ability.

In doing so, Congress created the O non-immigrant visa, pursuant to an amendment to the Immigration Act of 1990 (IMMACT), for individuals who possesses extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics, or who have a demonstrated record of extraordinary achievement in the motion picture or television industry and have been recognized nationally or internationally for those achievements.

The changes under IMMACT led to unintended conflicts between labor and management in the industry.

Labor and management reached a settlement, reflected in current law and regulations that give weight, but not control, to labor union advisory opinions of the abilities and profes-

sional prestige of foreign artists and performers sought by industry management.

By requiring that USCIS provide a copy of the O-1B petition decision to the labor union that was consulted, H.R. 3636 will provide labor unions with important data allowing them to see how their consultations are used by the adjudication agency.

H.R. 3636 will reinforce the labor union's position in the adjudication process and lay the groundwork for further legislative action if the newly provided information suggests that more reform is warranted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3636, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow labor organizations and management organizations to receive the results of visa petitions about which such organizations have submitted advisory opinions."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STRATEGY TO OPPOSE PREDATORY ORGAN TRAFFICKING ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3694) to combat trafficking in human organs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3694

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strategy To Oppose Predatory Organ Trafficking Act" or the "STOP Organ Trafficking Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 10 percent of all transplanted kidneys worldwide are illegally obtained, often bought from vulnerable impoverished persons or forcibly harvested from prisoners.

(2) In 2004, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution urging its member-states to take measures to protect the poorest as well as vulnerable groups from exploitation by organ traffickers.

(3) On February 13, 2008, the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT) hosted the "Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking", and subsequently reported that a lack of adequate illicit organ trafficking laws has provided opportunity for the illegal trade to grow.

(4) On March 21, 2011, the Council of the European Union adopted rules supplementing the definition of criminal offenses and the level of sanctions in order to strengthen the prevention of organ trafficking and the protection of those victims.

(5) In 2005, the United States ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women

and Children, a supplement to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which includes the removal of organs as a form of exploitation under the definition of “trafficking in persons”.

(6) According to a 2013 United Nations report from the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the economic and social divisions within and among countries is notably reflected in the illicit organ trafficking market, in which the victims are commonly poor, unemployed, and more susceptible to deceit and extortion.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the kidnapping or coercion of individuals for the purpose of extracting their organs for profit is in contradiction of the ideals and standards for ethical behavior upon which the United States has based its laws;

(2) the illegal harvesting of organs from children is a violation of the human rights of the child and is a breach of internationally accepted medical ethical standards described in WHO Assembly Resolution 57.18 (May 22, 2004);

(3) the illegal harvesting and trafficking of organs violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Article 3 which states that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”, and in Article 4 which states that “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.”; and

(4) establishing efficient voluntary organ donation systems with strong enforcement mechanisms is the most effective way to combat trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to—

(1) combat the international trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs;

(2) promote the establishment of voluntary organ donation systems with effective enforcement mechanisms in bilateral diplomatic meetings, as well as in international health forums; and

(3) promote the dignity and security of human life in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

SEC. 5. REVOCATION OR DENIAL OF PASSPORTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ORGAN TRAFFICKERS.

The Act entitled “An Act to regulate the issue and validity of passports, and for other purposes”, approved July 3, 1926 (22 U.S.C. 211a et seq.), which is commonly known as the “Passport Act of 1926”, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO DENY OR REVOKE PASSPORT.

“(a) **ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary of State may refuse to issue a passport to any individual who has been convicted of an offense under section 301 of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e) if such individual used a passport or otherwise crossed an international border in the commission of such an offense.

“(b) **REVOCATION.**—The Secretary of State may revoke a passport previously issued to any individual described in paragraph (1).”

SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting: “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs (as defined in paragraph (13)).”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (15) as paragraphs (14) through (16), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following new paragraph:

“(13) **TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THEIR ORGANS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs’ means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person, either living or deceased, for the purpose of removing one or more of the person’s organs, by means of—

“(i) coercion;

“(ii) abduction;

“(iii) deception;

“(iv) fraud;

“(v) abuse of power or a position of vulnerability; or

“(vi) transfer of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over a person described in the matter preceding clause (i).

“(B) **ORGAN DEFINED.**—In subparagraph (A), the term ‘organ’ has the meaning given the term ‘human organ’ in section 301(c)(1) of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e(c)(1)).”

(b) **INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING.**—Section 105(d)(3) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(d)(3)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: “Such procedures shall include collection and organization of data from human rights officers at United States embassies on host country’s laws against trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs and any instances of violations of such laws.”

SEC. 7. REPORTING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2024, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive report that includes the following information:

(1) A description of the sources, practices, methods, facilitators, and recipients of trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs during the period covered by each such report.

(2) A description of activities undertaken by the Department of State, either unilaterally or in cooperation with other countries, to address and prevent trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs.

(3) A description of activities undertaken by countries to address and prevent trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The reports required under subsection (a) shall include the collection and organization of data from human rights officers at United States diplomatic and consular posts on host countries’ laws against trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs, including enforcement of such laws, or any instances of violations of such laws.

(c) **ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The reports required under subsection (a) may include—

(1) information provided in meetings with host country officials;

(2) information provided through cooperation with United Nations or World Health Organization agencies;

(3) communications and reports provided by nongovernmental organizations working on the issue of trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs; and

(4) any other reports or information sources the Secretary of State determines to be necessary and appropriate.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) **ORGAN.**—The term “organ” has the meaning given the term “human organ” in section 301(c)(1) of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e(c)(1)).

(3) **TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THEIR ORGANS.**—The term “trafficking of persons for the removal of their organs” means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person, either living or deceased, for the purpose of removing one or more of the person’s organs, by means of—

(A) coercion;

(B) abduction;

(C) deception;

(D) fraud;

(E) abuse of power or a position of vulnerability; or

(F) transfer of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over a person described in the matter preceding clause (i).

SEC. 9. LIMITATION ON FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or any amendment made by this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this bill.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. TROTT and Mr. DEUTCH for introducing this important bill. The concept here is to combat the horrific crime of human trafficking for organ removal. And, as always, I appreciate the support of the ranking member, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, in moving this antitrafficking bill forward.

As hard as it is for us to accept this, as shocking as this is, the circumstances are such that rising global demand and a lack of adequate laws in many countries has fueled the growth of a worldwide black market for transplant organs.

The World Health Organization estimates that 10 percent of all transplanted organs worldwide are illegally obtained. That would mean that they were being coerced from vulnerable populations or forcibly harvested from prisoners. Often these prisoners are shot first in order to obtain organs, such as hearts, corneas, or lungs. They

are taken from hostages. They are taken from oppressed minorities. An example would be kidneys or part of a liver.

These abuses are more than just grave human rights violations. They also have worldwide implications for national security and public health. What do we mean when we say implications for national security? Well, criminal organizations and terrorist groups are increasingly engaging in this black market industry that is valued now at a billion dollars.

To give you some of the most extreme examples: ISIS recently issued a fatwa sanctioning forced organ harvesting from captives and, as they call them, from apostates; and traffickers smuggling refugees into Europe have reportedly coerced organ donations, coerced a kidney as payment for travel.

A number of studies have underscored how this shady commerce also creates biosecurity threats to the rest of the world. Recipients of infected tissue or organs may become human carriers of disease. Or another problem is drug-resistant pathogens that contribute to the spread of pandemics and antibiotic resistance.

Now, the U.S. has led the fight against human trafficking, and I would add, with help from the Foreign Affairs Committee, with help from the legislation that we, our members on the committee, have authored.

This bill continues and expands that effort, and it does so by closing the gap in U.S. law that currently fails to recognize the trafficking in persons for the removal of their organs as a form of human trafficking.

Specifically, this bill also makes it the policy of the United States to combat such trafficking, to promote the adoption of effective voluntary organ donation systems in bilateral engagements and multinational health forums that we have with other countries. And it requires an annual report to Congress, an annual report on human trafficking for organ removal, which details activities by our State Department and by other countries to combat this crime.

Finally, the bill allows for the revocation of passports from any individual that is involved in this kind of activity, that is convicted of an organ trafficking offense under the National Organ Transplant Act, as well as permitting the denial of visas to applicants with such convictions.

So I urge all Members to support this important measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I begin, this is the first time I have spoken on the House floor since the horrific attack in Orlando, and I just want to take a brief moment to talk about it. This was a shocking hate crime against the LGBT community, a jarring and disgusting attack on our LGBT brothers and sisters, and on the

progress LGBT rights have made in this country. And, of course, this was also a terrorist attack, and we need to look at it in the broader context of how we're working to meet the challenge of violent extremism here and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, since yesterday morning, there has been an outpouring of thoughts and prayers for the victims in Orlando and their loved ones; and, to be sure, moral and spiritual support are a part of how we grieve and heal.

We are all angry about this heinous attack. We are all heartbroken. We are all committed to finding answers. We are all standing together, and we will move forward from this tragedy together.

But, as lawmakers, we are empowered to do more than think and pray. In fact, we are certainly empowered to do more. I certainly have my views on what is necessary on the domestic side to stop this slaughter by gun violence, but I will leave that contentious debate aside for the moment.

What I will say is that, on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Republicans and Democrats have found a great deal of common ground on what sort of measures will help to keep us safe and to confront the threat of violent extremism. What has guided us in the past: the spirit of nonpartisanship and the belief that politics should stop at the water's edge, should continue to inform our work.

Turning to this bill, let me thank the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ED ROYCE; and I want to thank Mr. TROTT and Mr. DEUTCH for all of their hard work on this measure.

The World Health Organization estimates that 10 percent of all transplanted organs worldwide are illegally obtained. That is an alarming number; but, like so many illegal enterprises, this is a crime that is poorly understood, that seeks out zones of impunity where the light of the law doesn't shine and where information is hard to come by.

So with a handful of estimates and reports, we are left asking: Who are the victims of this crime? How do they become trapped by this illegal trade? What pressures and vulnerabilities made them susceptible? What are governments doing to halt the practice to track down those responsible and to provide services to survivors? Should this challenge be included in our efforts to confront modern slavery, or is this a different sort of problem altogether?

This bill will help us get answers to these questions. It calls for a report on this crime that will allow us to connect the dots. Once we know what we are dealing with, then we can figure out the best way to act and chart a path forward. So I am glad to support it. I thank the chairman and the bill's sponsors again.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michi-

gan (Mr. TROTT), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, the committee staff, and Mena Hanna from my office for their work on H.R. 3694. I also want to thank my colleague, Representative DEUTCH, for coauthoring the STOP Organ Trafficking Act with me.

Illegal trafficking of human organs has long been a terrible and heinous crime, but unfortunately our policies and laws have not kept pace with this outrageous practice.

China has been inexplicably targeting the Falun Gong for years, and more recently, ISIS has reportedly been resorting to this brutal practice to finance their nefarious activities and strike fear in the hearts of innocent people.

Late last year, ISIS released a religious edict stating that taking organs from a living captive to save a Muslim's life was permissible, making religious minorities all over the Middle East, like the Chaldeans and the Assyrians, even more vulnerable.

Other helpless groups of people, like refugees, have reportedly been selling their organs on the black market through dealers who then sell the organs to foreign countries in what is quickly becoming an unchecked and lucrative business.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the United States to take a leading role in combatting this heinous crime and standing with the world's most vulnerable. We must ensure that our country is doing everything within our power to destroy any revenue stream that ISIS relies on to further its terrorist activities.

My bill is a start to this lengthy process, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this timely legislation.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

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Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE again for bringing this important bill to the floor, and to ELIOT ENGEL for his leadership and Mr. DEUTCH, and especially to Mr. TROTT, the sponsor of H.R. 3694, the Strategy To Oppose Predatory Organ Trafficking Act. This legislation recognizes and seeks to more effectively combat what is a growing manifestation of trafficking in persons for the sole purpose of organ removal, often for great profit for the traffickers.

Mr. TROTT's legislation requires the Department of State to develop a robust strategy to combat this heinous practice. We have long heard rumors and horror stories of migrants held captive in sub-Saharan Africa and the Sinai Peninsula, their organs taken

and their bodies dumped because their families could not afford the ransom.

Twenty years ago, I chaired a human rights hearing in my subcommittee with a Chinese security official who testified that he and his other security agents were executing prisoners—with doctors, of course, there and ambulances—in order to steal their organs for transplant. Since then, this horrific practice has skyrocketed.

Recent evidence from researchers Ethan Gutmann and David Matas shows that organ transplants in China have increased almost exponentially, not decreased. There is a bizarre availability of organs in Chinese military hospitals and China's transplant apparatus that can often issue a tissue match and find an organ transplant within 2 weeks for any foreign tourist with cash.

This initiative by Mr. TROTT will require the State Department to do a more thorough analysis of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal in China and elsewhere around the world, informing a strategy to stop this crime against humanity.

Any American, Mr. Speaker, traveling to China for an organ transplant in 2016 should now be on notice that they may be participating in human trafficking of a vulnerable person or of a prisoner. Americans must not turn a blind eye to the ambiguous origins of a proffered organ. H.R. 3694 will help ensure that Americans are certain that they are receiving transplants only in countries that prohibit and actively suppress organ harvesting from trafficking victims.

I thank the gentleman for his legislation.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, the United States has made tremendous progress shining a light on poorly understood problems around the world and working to find solutions: human trafficking, the advancement of women and girls, the importance of protecting our oceans, and combating climate change. A generation ago, no one considered these foreign policy issues, but today we are prioritizing every single one of them.

That is what we are trying to do now with respect to organ trafficking. This legislation will give us a fuller understanding of this problem so that we can act in the most effective way possible. This is, again, a great bipartisan measure. I thank Mr. TROTT and Mr. DEUTCH and Chairman ROYCE. I am happy to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The scourge of illegal organ trafficking has been pretty well documented, and you heard, here, Congressman DAVID TROTT explain the fatwa that has now been put out by ISIS that not only excuses the effort to go after

Yazidis and Christians and others that they call apostates, but all captives are open to losing a kidney or forced organ transplant. The intention here is to make a market in this in the Middle East.

But it does not just occur there, within the boundaries of ISIS' caliphate. This is a crime that reportedly occurs in some 20 countries, in all regions of the world.

So I thank Mr. TROTT and Mr. DEUTCH for introducing this legislation. I also thank Mr. ENGEL, and I want to commend Sarah Blocher of the Committee on Foreign Affairs professional staff for years of excellent work on this issue and her assistance to the authors.

The STOP Organ Trafficking Act addresses a critical challenge to human rights, to our national security, to our public health, and it deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3694, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4939) to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4939

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean in a concerted effort to—

- (1) enhance diplomatic relations between the United States and the Caribbean region;
- (2) increase economic cooperation between the United States and the Caribbean region;
- (3) support regional economic, political, and security integration efforts in the Caribbean region;
- (4) encourage sustainable economic development and increased regional economic diversification and global competitiveness;
- (5) reduce levels of crime and violence, curb the trafficking of illicit drugs, strength-

en the rule of law, and improve citizen security;

(6) improve energy security by increasing access to diverse, reliable, affordable, and sustainable power;

(7) advance cooperation on democracy and human rights in the Caribbean region and at multilateral fora; and

(8) continue support for public health advances and cooperation on health concerns and threats to the Caribbean region.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a multi-year strategy for United States engagement with the Caribbean region that—

(1) identifies Department of State and USAID efforts, in coordination with other executive branch agencies, to prioritize United States policy towards the Caribbean region;

(2) outlines an approach to broaden Department of State and USAID outreach to the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States to promote their involvement and participation in the economic development and citizen security of the Caribbean region;

(3) outlines an approach to partner with the governments of the Caribbean region to improve citizen security, reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law, and improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative;

(4) establishes a comprehensive, integrated, multi-year strategy to encourage the efforts of the Caribbean region to implement regional and national strategies that improve energy security by increasing access to diverse, reliable, affordable, and sustainable power, including significant renewable energy resources within the Caribbean region such as biomass, geothermal, hydropower, solar, tidal, waste-to-energy, and wind, and by taking advantage of the ongoing energy revolution in the United States;

(5) outlines an approach to improve diplomatic engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, including with respect to key votes on human rights and democracy at the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

(6) develops an approach to assisting Caribbean countries in the diversification of their economies, the reduction of legal, technical, and administrative barriers that prevent the free flow of foreign direct investment and trade to and from each country and within the Caribbean region, and support for the training and employment of youth and citizens in marginalized communities; and

(7) reflects the input of other executive branch agencies, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. BRIEFINGS.

The Secretary of State shall provide annual briefings to the appropriate congressional committees that review Department of State efforts to implement the strategy for United States engagement with the Caribbean region in accordance with section 3.

SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter for the following four years, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made toward implementing the strategy for United States engagement with the Caribbean region in accordance with section 3.